

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT OF H.R. 4255
OFFERED BY _____

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the
following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States Olympic
3 Committee Paralympic Program Act of 2008”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) In 1998, Congress enacted the Olympic and
8 Amateur Sports Act Amendments of 1998, which
9 amended chapter 2205 of title 36, United States
10 Code, which included a statement that the purpose
11 of the Act was “to encourage and provide assistance
12 to amateur athletic programs and competition for
13 amateur athletes with disabilities, including, where
14 feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaning-
15 ful participation by such amateur athletes in pro-
16 grams of athletic competition for able-bodied ama-
17 teur athletes”.

1 (2) The United States Olympic Committee
2 manages and administers the Paralympic Program
3 for physically disabled athletes.

4 (3) In 2005, the United States Olympic Com-
5 mittee entered into a memorandum of understanding
6 with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the
7 Paralympic Program to provide special training and
8 rehabilitation to disabled veterans and disabled
9 members of the Armed Forces as part of their reha-
10 bilitation and return to an active lifestyle.

11 (4) The Paralympic Program has a significant
12 positive effect on the quality of life of such veterans
13 and servicemembers, including helping to improve
14 the mobility, vitality, physical, psychological, and so-
15 cial well-being of disabled veterans and disabled
16 members of the Armed Forces who participate in the
17 program and reducing the incidence of secondary
18 medical conditions in those participants.

19 (5) Because of Operation Iraqi Freedom and
20 Operation Enduring Freedom, the number of dis-
21 abled veterans and disabled members of the Armed
22 Forces has increased substantially and it is therefore
23 necessary to expand the scope and size of the
24 Paralympic Program to provide rehabilitative serv-

1 ices through sports to disabled veterans and mem-
2 bers of the Armed Forces.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
4 lows:

5 (1) To promote the life-long health of disabled
6 veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces
7 through regular participation in physical activity and
8 sports.

9 (2) To develop a system that promotes disabled
10 sports from the local level through elite levels by cre-
11 ating partnerships among organizations specializing
12 in supporting, training, and promoting programs for
13 disabled athletes.

14 (3) To provide training and support to local or-
15 ganizations to provide paralympic sports training to
16 disabled veterans and disabled members of the
17 Armed Forces in their own communities.

18 (4) To provide support to the United States
19 Olympic Committee for the Paralympic Program to
20 increase the participation of disabled veterans and
21 disabled members of the Armed Forces in sports as
22 part of their rehabilitation.

1 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVISION**
2 **OF ASSISTANCE TO UNITED STATES OLYMPIC**
3 **COMMITTEE PARALYMPIC PROGRAM.**

4 (a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Sub-
5 chapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code,
6 is amended by inserting after section 521 the following:

7 **“§ 521A. Assistance for the United States Olympic**
8 **Committee’s Paralympic Program**

9 “(a) AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.—
10 The Secretary may make grants to the United States
11 Olympic Committee to plan, develop, manage, and imple-
12 ment the Paralympic Program for disabled veterans and
13 disabled members of the Armed Forces.

14 “(b) OVERSIGHT BY SECRETARY.—As a condition of
15 receiving a grant under this section, the United States
16 Olympic Committee shall permit the Secretary to conduct
17 such oversight of the use of grant funds as the Secretary
18 determines is appropriate.

19 “(c) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—(1) Before the
20 Secretary may make a grant to the United States Olympic
21 Committee under this section, the Committee shall submit
22 to the Secretary an application that describes the activities
23 to be carried out with the grant, including information on
24 specific measurable goals and objectives to be achieved
25 using grant funds. The application shall include a detailed
26 description of all partnerships referred to in paragraph (2)

1 at the national and local levels that will be participating
2 in such activities and the amount of grant funds that will
3 be made available for each of such partnerships.

4 “(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—Partnerships referred to in
5 this paragraph are agreements between the United States
6 Olympic Committee and national organizations with sig-
7 nificant experience in the training and support of disabled
8 athletes and the promotion of disabled sports at the local
9 and national levels. Such organizations include Disabled
10 Sports USA, Blaze Sports, Paralyzed Veterans of Amer-
11 ica, and Disabled American Veterans. The agreements
12 shall detail the scope of activities and funding provided
13 by the United States Olympic Committee to the partner.

14 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—(1) The United States Olym-
15 pic Committee, with the assistance and cooperation of the
16 Secretary and the heads of other appropriate Federal and
17 State departments and agencies and partnerships referred
18 to in subsection (c)(2), shall use a grant under this section
19 to recruit, support, encourage, schedule, facilitate, super-
20 vise, and implement the activities described in paragraph
21 (3) for disabled veterans and disabled members of the
22 Armed Forces either directly or by supporting a program
23 described in paragraph (2).

24 “(2) A program described in this paragraph is a sport
25 program that—

1 “(A) promotes basic physical activity, games,
2 recreation, training, and competition;

3 “(B) is approved by the Secretary; and

4 “(C)(i) provides services and activities described
5 in paragraph (3) for disabled veterans and disabled
6 members of the Armed Forces; and

7 “(ii) may also provide services and activities de-
8 scribed in paragraph (3) for individuals with disabil-
9 ities who are not veterans or members of the Armed
10 Forces, or both; except that funds made available to
11 carry out this section may not be used to support
12 those individuals with disabilities who are not vet-
13 erans or members of the Armed Forces.

14 “(3) Activities described in this paragraph are—

15 “(A) instruction, participation, and competition
16 in paralympic sports;

17 “(B) training and technical assistance to pro-
18 gram administrators, coaches, recreational thera-
19 pists, instructors, Department employees, and other
20 appropriate individuals; and

21 “(C) coordination, Paralympic classification of
22 athletes, athlete assessment, sport-specific training
23 techniques, program development (including pro-
24 grams at the local level), program specific medical
25 and personal care support, sports equipment, sup-

1 plies, program evaluation, and other activities re-
2 lated to the implementation and operation of the
3 program.

4 “(4) A grant made under this section may include,
5 at the discretion of the Secretary, an amount for adminis-
6 trative expenses, but not to exceed ten percent of the
7 amount of the grant.

8 “(5) Funds made available by the United States
9 Olympic Committee to a grantee under subsection (c) may
10 include an amount for administrative expenses, but not
11 to exceed ten percent of the amount of such funds.

12 “(e) OUTREACH REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary
13 shall conduct an outreach campaign to inform all eligible
14 veterans and separating members of the Armed Forces
15 with physical disabilities about the existence of the
16 Paralympic Program and shall provide for, facilitate, and
17 encourage participation of such veterans and separating
18 servicemembers in programs under this section to the ex-
19 tent possible.

20 “(f) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure ac-
21 cess to and use of appropriate Department facilities by
22 disabled veterans and disabled members of the Armed
23 Forces participating in the Paralympic Program to the
24 maximum extent possible and to the extent that such ac-

1 cess and use does not adversely affect any other assistance
2 provided to veterans.

3 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 is authorized to be appropriated \$8,000,000 annually to
5 carry out this section.

6 “(h) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING.—The Department
7 shall have a separate line item in budget proposals of the
8 Department for funds to be appropriated to carry out this
9 section. Funds appropriated to carry out this section shall
10 not be commingled with any other funds appropriated to
11 the Department.

12 “(i) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Except as pro-
13 vided in subsections (d)(4) and (d)(5), funds appropriated
14 to carry out this section may not be used to support or
15 provide services to individuals who are not disabled vet-
16 erans or disabled members of the Armed Forces.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
18 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
19 after the item relating to section 521 the following new
20 item:

“521A. Assistance for United States Olympic Committee’s Paralympic Pro-
gram.”.

21 (c) DEADLINE FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-
22 STANDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not
23 award a grant under section 521A of title 38, United
24 States Code, as added by subsection (a), until the United

1 States Olympic Committee has entered into a memo-
2 randum of understanding or cooperative agreement with
3 the Secretary regarding implementation of the Paralympic
4 Program. Such agreement shall be concluded not later
5 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF**
7 **NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS**
8 **AND SPECIAL EVENTS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF NATIONAL VET-
10 ERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.—
11 Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by
12 adding at the end the following:

13 **“§ 321. Office of National Veterans Sports Programs**
14 **and Special Events**

15 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department
16 an Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Spe-
17 cial Events. There is at the head of the Office a Director,
18 who shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary for
19 Public and Intergovernmental Affairs of the Department.

20 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—Subject to
21 the direction of the Secretary, the Director—

22 “(1) shall establish and carry out qualifying
23 programs and events;

24 “(2) may provide for sponsorship by the De-
25 partment of qualifying programs and events;

1 “(3) may provide for, facilitate, and encourage
2 participation by disabled veterans in qualifying pro-
3 grams and events; and

4 “(4) shall cooperate with the United States
5 Olympic Committee and its subsidiaries to promote
6 the participation of disabled veterans and disabled
7 members of the Armed Forces in sporting events
8 sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee
9 and its subsidiaries.

10 “(c) QUALIFYING PROGRAM OR EVENT.—For pur-
11 poses of this section, a qualifying program or event is a
12 sports program or other event in which disabled veterans
13 and disabled members of the Armed Forces participate
14 and that is approved by the Secretary as being consistent
15 with the goals and missions of the Department.

16 “(d) MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.—(1) The
17 Director may provide a monthly assistance allowance to
18 a veteran with a disability invited by the United States
19 Olympic Committee to compete for a slot on, or selected
20 for, the Paralympic Team for any month in which the vet-
21 eran is training or competing in any event sanctioned by
22 the United States Olympic Committee or who is residing
23 at a United States Olympic Committee training center.

24 “(2) The amount of the monthly assistance payable
25 to a veteran under paragraph (1) shall be equal to the

1 monthly amount of subsistence allowance that would be
2 payable to the veteran under chapter 31 of this title if
3 the veteran were eligible for and entitled to rehabilitation
4 under such chapter.

5 “(3) Any amount of assistance paid to a veteran
6 under this subsection shall be in addition to any other as-
7 sistance available to the veteran under any other provision
8 of law.

9 “(4) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry
10 out this subsection \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and
11 thereafter.

12 “(e) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—
13 Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation
14 on current disabled sports and special events supported
15 by the Department.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
18 at the end the following new item:

“321. Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.”.

19 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR
20 HEALTH.—The Secretary of the Veterans Affairs shall di-
21 rect the Under Secretary for Health of the Department
22 of Veterans Affairs—

23 (1) to make available, to the maximum extent
24 possible, recreational therapists, physical therapists,
25 and other medical staff to facilitate participation of

1 veterans in sporting events conducted under the aus-
2 pices of the United States Olympic Committee;

3 (2) to allow such personnel to participate in the
4 United States Olympic Committee Paralympic Pro-
5 gram without requiring the use personal leave; and

6 (3) to support other similar activities or events
7 as those described in this section and determined to
8 be appropriate by the Secretary.

